

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00316 271259Z POSS DUPE
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 DOTE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-03
EUR-12 /059 W

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P 271200Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3498
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0316

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, AFESD, SU
SUBJECT: ARAB FUND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST
RE SUDAN HIGHWAY PROJECT

REF: KUWAIT 410

1. REFTEL SUGGESTION THAT FHWA COOPERATE WITH AFESD IN SUDAN HIGHWAY PROJECT STRIKES US AS WORTH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. IF PROGRAM COULD BE DEVELOPED WHEREBY FHWA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COULD BE PROVIDED HERE, FINANCED BY ARAB FUND, WE THINK SEVERAL OBJECTIVES COULD BE REALIZED, PARTICULARLY IF PROPOSAL COULD BE FORMULATED RELATIVELY SOON. GOS WOULD VIEW AVAILABILITY US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS POSITIVE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WITHIN GOS URGING GREATER COOPERATION WITH US. SECONDLY, PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE EXAMPLE OF TRILATERAL COOPERATION WHICH PERHAPS COULD SERVE AS MODEL IN OTHER FIELDS. BASED ON EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE, WE THINK FHWA PRESENCE IN SUDAN, WHICH IS IN PROCESS IMPLEMENTING MAJOR TRANSPORTATION EXPANSION PROGRAM, WOULD LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL BENEFITS FOR US. FINALLY, FHWA RECORD ELSEWHERE SUGGESTS IT COULD
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MAKE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF SUDAN, WHICH IN TURN WOULD NOT ONLY BENEFIT ECONOMY OF COUNTRY BUT HELP UNDERPIN OVERALL USG ROLE HERE. FYI -- SUDANESE STILL CITE WITH PRAISE AND GRATIFICATION KHARTOUM/WAD MEDANI ROAD BUILT UNDER AID AUSPICES TEN YEARS AGO. END FYI.

2. IF PROJECT GOES FORWARD, WE ASSUME IT WILL BE HANDLED

LIKE OTHER REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THESE DO NOT, IN OUR EXPERIENCE, REQUIRE AID INPUTS OTHER THAN INITIAL POLICY DETERMINATION.

3. BASED ON REFTEL, SEEMS TWO PROBLEMS COULD STAND IN WAY OF FHWA PARTICIPATION. IT NOT CLEAR FAROUK NASSER IS IN ANY POSITION TO MAKE MEANINGFUL COMMITMENT ON BEHALF AFESD. IT WOULD SEEM NECESSARY TO HAVE SOMEWHAT MORE SOLID INVITATION FROM ARAB FUND. SECONDLY, WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER USG CAN MATCH "SWEETENER" BEING OFFERED BY UK. IN ANY FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH ARAB FUND, EMBASSY KUWAIT MIGHT WISH UNDERSCORE DEPTH OF EXPERTISE WHICH FHWA CAN BRING TO BEAR IN SUDAN WHERE CONDITIONS FAR MORE SIMILAR TO US THAN UK.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE RECOMMEND DEPT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY KUWAIT TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT AND THAT USG BE PREPARED REPLY POSITIVELY TO FIRM REQUEST FOR FHWA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUDAN WHICH WOULD BE FINANCED BY ARAB FUND. WE WOULD AT THAT STAGE WISH INFORM GOS HERE BUT FORESEE NO PROBLEM ON THIS SCORE.

5. FOR KUWAIT: WE MADE NO RECORD OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH NASSER, WHO BRIEFED US IN GENERAL TERMS ON AFESD HIGHWAY PROJECTS HERE. BREWER

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